

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Attention: News Director  
For Immediate Release  
December 7, 2006**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
DAVID L. HUBER  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
Western District of Kentucky**

**Contact: Sandy Focken  
(502) 582-5911**

\*\*\*\*\*

**AN OHIO MAN AND A VIRGINIA MAN PLEAD GUILTY TO BANK FRAUD  
SCHEME**

***- Eleven counterfeit checks totaling \$51,145.43 -***

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Tracy A. Reinhold, Special Agent in Charge of the Kentucky Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), jointly announced today that **JAVON POWELL** of Virginia and **JOSEPH FULMAN** of Ohio pleaded guilty to a Superseding Indictment. **Powell** pleaded guilty to 3 counts of bank fraud and 1 count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud. **Fulman** pleaded guilty to 1 count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud. Three other co-defendants, Byron Lewis, Stuart Furlow, and Marcus Sherrill, pleaded guilty to their involvement in the conspiracy and bank fraud scheme on August 10, 2006.

The Superseding Indictment charges that **Powell** recruited **Fulman** to initially participate in the bank fraud scheme. Shortly after this, **Fulman** recruited three other individuals, Lewis, Furlow, and Sherrill, to participate in a bank fraud scheme in which he, **Powell**, caused counterfeit checks to be deposited into their bank accounts. Once **Powell** deposited the counterfeit checks, he then ordered these individuals to send money to him or his associates through Western Union wire transfers.

**- MORE -**

The Superseding Indictment and Plea Agreement state that during May of 2004 five

counterfeit checks, totaling \$21,507.35, were deposited into Lewis's PNC Bank account. Immediately following these deposits, Lewis, at the direction of **Powell**, made multiple withdrawals from his bank account and also following the deposits, Lewis used his PNC Bank Check Card to purchase \$6,680 worth United States Postal Money Orders made payable to him. In addition, Lewis purchased Western Union wire transfers payable to others immediately following the deposits of the counterfeit checks.

The Superseding Indictment and Plea Agreement state that also during May of 2004 two more counterfeit checks, totaling \$9,680.90, were deposited into Furlow's PNC Bank account. Immediately following the deposits, Furlow, at the direction of **Powell**, made multiple withdrawals from his bank account. Also following the deposits, Furlow used a PNC Bank Check Card to purchase \$2,000 worth of United States Postal Money Orders made payable to others.

During May of 2004 two additional counterfeit checks, totaling \$9,981.80, were deposited into Sherrill's PNC Bank account. Immediately following the deposits, Sherrill, at the direction of **Powell**, made multiple withdrawals from his bank account. Also following the deposits, Sherrill used a PNC Bank Check Card to purchase \$6,680 worth of United States Postal Money Orders made payable to him. In addition, Sherrill purchased Western Union wire transfers payable to others immediately following the deposit of the counterfeit checks.

Finally during April 2004 two counterfeit checks, totaling \$9,977.46, were deposited into **Fulman's** U.S. Bank bank account. Immediately following the deposits, **Fulman** made multiple withdrawals from his bank account.

**- MORE -**

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bryan R. Calhoun, and

it was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Sentencing is scheduled for March 8, 2007, at 3:00 p.m., in Louisville, Kentucky, before the Honorable Jennifer Coffman.

**- END -**

DLH:BRC:vp 061107  
DLH:sf:061107